(c) and (d) A committee of the National Development Council (NDC) on population has been constituted in pursuance of the meeting of the National Development Council held in December, 1991. The objectives of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) To review the social and demographic dimensions, existing and requisite infrastructure at the community level and the needs of technology development relevant to the formulation of National Population Policy; (ii) To identify intervention strategies for population control, both at the macro and micro levels on a holistic and intersectoral basis: (iii) To suggest mechanism for securing commitment and support of leadership of all denominations, and at all levels for the National Population policy and the implementation of population control programmes; (iv) to recommend ways and means of achieving participation of the people, particularly women and youth, and through people's institutions such as NGOs, voluntary organisations, professional organisations of all categories of health care providers, trade and industry, labour organised and cooperative sector and media etc., (v) To outline policies and programmes for raising the social status of women, bridging the gender gap in literacy and health and welfare of the mother and the child, as assential inputs into population welfare programme, (vi) To review and recommend appropriate changes in system of financing family welfare programme, (vii) Taking into cognizance the above recommendations, to suggest appropriate formulations for a National Population Policy. (viii) To identify and recommend suitable mechenism (s) for a continuous review and monitoring of the implementation of National Population Policy and the intervention strategies, recommended therein (ix) To make any other recommendations that may be appropriate either for the formulation of National Population Policy or for the implementation of population control programmes.

Rectangular population clocks

995. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to place at strategic points the rectangular population clocks with a view to control population;

(b) if so, whether Government have evolved a strategy to select points in cities, towns and rural areas for the installation of such clocks;

(c) the total expenditure involved in this project; and

(d) what other measures Government proposes to take to promote the small family norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following criteria has been decided for selection of sites for installation of Population Clocks.

1. Maximum coverage of the clock in terms of viewers in order to propagate the message of the small family norm.

2. The site should be such that people from maximum walks of life visit it.

3. The site should have suitable infrastructure and space for installation of the clock.

4. The site should have uninterrupted electricity supply.

5. Proper security is ensured.

(c) The total cost involved in the production of 4 Populaton Clocks, out of which one has already been completed and installed; and three under production, is Rs. 44 lakhs. It is proposed to procure additional clocks with certain modifications & installation in each State/UT at a cost of Rs. 189 lakhs.

(d) The measures being taken to promote the small family norm include:

Reorientation of information, education and communication efforts, involvement of voluntary and non-Governmental organisations, improving the quality and outreach of services with special emphasis on the low performing states and districts, introduction of new contraceptives and improving the quality and availability of existing ones; strengthening maternal and child health and revitalising the training of medical and para-medical personnel.

Provision for low cost family planning methods

996. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that family planning has become quite costly in the recent past and is likely to become even costlier in future;

(b) if so, what action Government are contemplating to provide low cost family planning methods to encourage the family planning programme; and

(c) whether Government propose to involve the non-allopathic doctors in the villages in the Family Palnning Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): **(a)** The cost of providing family Planning services for prevention of one birth is very low in comparison to the total cost involved in providing services and facilities for bringing up and supporting an individual person and this would be the position in fture also.

(b) Different contraceptive devices/ methods are offered under the Family Welfare Programme for adoption by the individual acceptors best suited to their choice. There are made available either free of charge or on subsidised cost under social marketing schemes. Continuous efforts are on to evolve more acceptable, effective and low cost methods of contraception. As maternal and Child health care is an integral part of the Family Welfare Programme and closely related to family planning, immunisation coverage and other important maternal and child health care interventions are provided to the people free of cost.

(c) Yes, Sir.

incentive for small family norms

997. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council at its 3-day meeting held on 23rd December, 1991, had considered realistic incentives and disincentives to encourage small family norms;

(b) if so, what decisions were taken therein in this regard; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The National Development Council in its meeting held on 23-24th December, 1991 considered, *inter-alia*, the following two papers:—

(i) Population Control: Perspective and Planning.
(Prepared by the Planning Commission)

(ii) Population Control: Challenges and Strategies.

(Prepared by the Department of Family Welfare)

A new formula for the distributoin of Central assistance to non-special Category Central assistance to non-special Category formula, 7.5 per cent of Central assistance would be linked to performance under various sectors including population control.